

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 MC-02

ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 L-03 /138 W

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R 301512Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9868

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5484

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, MASS, MO, SP

SUBJECT: ARMS SALES TO MOROCCO

REF STATE 186606

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA THREE, REFTTEL, ON AUG 29 NAVAL AND ARMY ATTACHES, IN SEPARATE MEETINGS, INFORMED SPANISH NAVY AND ARMY INTELLIGENCE STAFF OFFICERS, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY RAISED THE QUESTION, OF THE PROJECTED DELIVERY BY USG OF APPROXIMATELY 24 (TWENTY-FOUR) M-48 A3 TANKS TO MOROCCO, PROBABLY IN SEPTEMBER 1974. BOTH ATTACHES MADE IT CLEAR IN THEIR CONVERSATIONS THAT THE DELIVERY OF M-48 TANKS WAS A PART OF PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS TO A FRIENDLY NATION AND THAT THE USG HAD NO INTENTION TO APPRECIABLY AFFECT THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE AREA TO THE DETRIMENT OF SPAIN. THEY ALSO INDICATED THAT MODEST DELIVERIES OF OTHER ARMS COULD OCCUR IN THE FUTURE.

2. SPANISH MILITARY OFFICERS QUESTIONED BOTH ATTACHES ABOUT SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND IF MOROCCAN TANK CREWS WOULD BE TRAINED BY USG. BOTH ATTACHES RESPONDED  
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THAT THEY HAD MX ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS. THE ACTING

CHIEF OF THE ARMY SECOND SECTION (INTELLIGENCE) MADE THE POINT TO AARMA THAT 24 TANKS MAY NOT AFFECT THE BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN MOROCCO AND SPAIN APPRECIABLY BUT, "THESE TANKS WILL BE IN MOROCCO AND OURS (M-47/48 TANKS) WILL BE HERE IN SPAIN." THE SPANISH NAVY ASKED IF MOROCCO WOULD PAY FOR THE TANKS AND WAS TOLD THAT WE CERTAINLY ANTICIPATED THEY WOULD. ALTHOUGH THE US ATTACHE PRESENTATION WAS MADE LOW KEY, THE INFORMATION APPEARED TO RAISE CONCERN, ESPECIALLY FROM THE SPANISH ARMY. IT IS LIKELY THAT FURTHER QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT WILL BE RAISED IN THE FUTURE.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY, EMBOFF CALLED ON MFA DIRECTOR OF NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST (LOPEZ AGUIRREBENGOA) TO PASS ON SUBSTANCE OF INFORMATION GIVEN PREVIOUSLY BY ATTACHES TO MILITARY CONTACTS. LOPEZ EXPRESSED THANKS FOR INFORMATION, ADDING THAT HE WAS GLAD TO GET AUTHORITATIVE CONFIRMATION OF REPORTS OF TANK DELIVERIES. PICKED UP ELSEWHERE BY MFA. WHILE HE FELT TIMING OF DELIVERY WAS UNFORTUNATE, HE CONSIDERED IT WAS MORE UNDERSTANDABLE IN LIGHT OF OUR INFORMATION THAT DEAL INITIATED MONTHS AGO. HE CONSIDERED 24 TANKS RATHER SMALL NUMBER FOR SERIOUS MODERNIZATION PLAN AND INQUIRED WHETHER THIS COMPLETES TANK DELIVERIES OR IS MERELY FIRST INSTALLMENT. WHILE EMBOFF HAD NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION, HE STRESSED THAT MODEST ARMS SALES TO MOROCCO WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE BUT THAT US WOULD NOT MAKE SALES THAT WOULD TIP BALANCE IN AREA TO SPAIN'S DETRIMENT.  
RIVERO

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